



Leading People into a Growing
Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Antioch CELEBRATION Message: Peter: Overcoming Epic Failure

Sermon Series: SECOND CHANCES – God, Grace and YOU

Dates: Happy Easter! April 15-16, 2017

Start the Conversation

Pastor John said, “Peter had two choices: he could either run TO Jesus, or he could run AWAY FROM Jesus.” Take a moment to describe your past—has God given you a second chance?

LEARN / live / love / lead

When you have guilt and shame, you can't have hope.

Peter declared, “Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.” Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.” “No!” Peter insisted. “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!” And all the other disciples vowed the same. **Matthew 26:33-35 (NLT)**

(Later) The woman asked Peter, “You’re not one of that man’s disciples, are you?” “No,” he said, “I am not.” Because it was cold, the household servants and the guards had made a charcoal fire. They stood around it, warming themselves, and Peter stood with them, warming himself. **John 18:17-18 (NLT)** Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know the man!” And immediately the rooster crowed... **Matthew 26:74a**

At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord’s words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly. **Luke 22:61-62 (NLT)**

God created real hope—by bringing Jesus back from the dead!

[John] stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn’t go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—for until then they still hadn’t understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home. **John 20:5-10 (NLT)**

That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! **John 20:19-20 (NLT)**

There is only one thing in the world that can undo shame: LOVE.

A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep." ... Then Jesus told him, "Follow me." **John 21:17, 19b (NLT)**

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Peter was confident that he would be strong in the face of uncertainty, confident that he would stand by Jesus no matter what. Describe how Jesus' love undid Peter's shame (John 21).

What has God done to help you embrace LIFE and LIVING after having been frozen by FEAR and FAILURE?

learn / live / LOVE / lead

Pastor John shared the story of a son who had sinned and knew he had to approach his father but couldn't bring himself to say the words. Take a look at how the father acted like Jesus to his son:

While his son is crying, this Dad who doesn't even know yet what his son has done, turns to him and says "Son, no matter what you've done, I will always love you. I could never love you more and I could never love you less."

Have you ever been shown that kind of love?

How are you being called to show that kind of love?

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Based on what you have discussed about Jesus and Peter—what does this teach about true spiritual leadership?

Can God effectively use someone in true spiritual leadership who has not yet experienced his grace?

Pray!

Consider going around in a circle and praying a simple prayer filling in the blank with what makes the most sense to you: **"Thank you God, that you are so _____"**